

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 041316Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6619

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 18720

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, GW

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE: GERMAN ACCEPTANCE

REF: STATE 263206

1. AN FRG FONOFF OFFICIAL EXPLAINED TO US THAT IT IS NOT HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO SET A SPECIFIC DEADLINE FOR THE CONVENING OF THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE OR THE FRG WOULD RECONSIDER ITS PLAN TO PARTICIPATE. THE OFFICIAL THOUGHT THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WERE CLEAR AND COMPLETE, BUT OBVIOUSLY THIS POINT WAS NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD BY LAHUSEN WHEN HE DELIVERED THE OFFICIAL FRG RESPONSE. THE OFFICIAL REITERATED THE GERMAN DESIRE THAT THE CONFERENCE BE HELD SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, MENTIONING AGAIN THE SEVERAL ONGOING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEIR GREAT COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE SECOND CONDITION REGARDING FRG PARTICIPATION, I.E., THAT ALL COUNTRIES INVITED ATTEND, IS OF

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CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE GERMANS. THE FRG DOES

NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO HOLD A MEANINGFUL CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF FRANCE. SHOULD FRANCE DECIDE NOT TO ATTEND, IT IS LIKELY WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE THE FRG TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRUNCATED CONFERENCE.

2. ON NOVEMBER 29 THE BRITISH, IN THEIR CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CENTRIFUGE COMMITTEE, OFFICIALLY ASKED THE DUTCH WHETHER THEY COULD ACCEPT UK AND FRG REPRESENTATION OF THEIR INTERESTS IN SUCH A CONFERENCE, PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE DUTCH ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AS APPROPRIATE. THUS FAR THE DUTCH HAVE NOT REPLIED TO THE QUESTION. SHOULD THE DUTCH EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO RELY ON THEIR BRITISH AND GERMAN PARTNERS, THEN THE JOINT UK-FRG REQUEST FOR DUTCH PARTICIPATION WOULD DISAPPEAR AS AN ISSUE. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE DUTCH VOICE THEIR DESIRE FOR DIRECT PARTICIPATION, THEN WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD HAVE TO GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO EXPANDING THE LIST OF INVITEES TO INCLUDE AT LEAST THE DUTCH. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO US THAT THE DUTCH, AS THE WEAKEST MEMBER OF THE CENTRIFUGE TRIUMVIRATE, TEND TO BE RATHER SENSITIVE ABOUT THEIR PREROGATIVES IN NUCLEAR MATTERS, BUT THEIR RESPONSE TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION POSED BY THE BRITISH AND GERMANS IS UNPREDICTABLE.

3. OFFICIAL FROM BRITISH EMBASSY, BONN, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UK-FRG ATOMIC ENERGY AFFAIRS HERE, CONTACTED US INDEPENDENTLY TO CONFIRM SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING INFORMATION. HE VENTURED PREDICTION THAT DUTCH WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACCEPT FRG AND UK AS THEIR AGENTS AT NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE. DUTCH SENSITIVITY ON THIS POINT, HE BELIEVES, WILL ALSO STEM FROM THEIR SELF-DESIGNATED POTENTIAL AS SIGNIFICANT NUCLEAR EXPORTER, PARTICULARLY OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSELS.

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